

**REMARKS**

Currently, claims 1-3 and 6-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 6-8 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,190,751 to Sylvester (“Sylvester”) in view of U.S. Patent No. to Sellew (“Sellew”). Claims 1-2 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,595,525 to Schmidt (“Schmidt”).

**I. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the limitation describing the edge of the first side of the sheet extending between the inner perimeter and outer perimeter of the sheet was unclear. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6-8 to clarify the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the claims have been amended to specify that the first side of the sheet includes first and second surfaces each of which extend from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter of the sheet. As further specified in the claims, the lip is only formed on only the first surface of the first side of the sheet and no lip is formed on any part of the second surface of the first side of the sheet. Therefore, the first side of the sheet will include a second surface extending from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter of the sheet which does not include any lip. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended overcome the Examiner’s rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

**II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 6-8 as being anticipated by Schmidt. As presently amended, claims 1, 3 and 6-8 each call for a sheet of flexible material with a first surface of a first side of the sheet having at least one lip and a second surface of the first side of the sheet having no lip. Schmidt fails to disclose, teach or suggest this arrangement. Schmidt discloses a seal having at least one lip extending along the entire perimeter of the first side of the sheet. Schmidt does not disclose a second surface of the first side extending from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter of the sheet that does not include a lip. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Schmidt.

**III. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6 as being unpatentable Sylvester in view of Sellew. As presently amended, claims 1, 3 and 6-8 each call for a sheet of flexible material with a first surface of a first side of the sheet having at least one lip and a second surface of the first side of the sheet having no lip. Neither Sylvester nor Sellew, taken together or alone, disclose, teach or suggest this arrangement. To the contrary, Sellew discloses a seal having at least one lip extending along the entire perimeter of the first side of the sheet. Sellew does not disclose, teach or suggest a second surface of the first side extending from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter of the sheet that does not include a lip. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Sylvester and Sellew.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

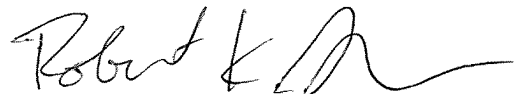
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1948-4821**.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1948-4821**.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By:



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